IN THE CLAIMS

Claims pending:
- At time of the Action: 29-65
- After this Response: 29-65

5   **Canceled or Withdrawn claims:** 1-28

Amended claims: 29-35, 37, 39-43, 48, 50, 55, 57, 58, and 60-63, and 65

New claims: none

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings:

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1. - 28. canceled.

29. (currently amended)   A computer-implemented method comprising:

configuring a distributed processing system of a <u>plurality</u> ~~multiplicity~~

15   of distributed devices coupled [[by]] <u>to</u> a network, wherein <u>the</u> ~~each said~~ distributed

~~device~~ <u>devices include respective</u> ~~has a~~ client ~~agent operable~~ <u>agents configured</u> to

process <u>respective portions of</u> a workload for the distributed processing system,

wherein the client ~~agent~~ <u>agents</u> for [[a]] particular said distributed ~~device~~

<u>devices have corresponding</u> ~~has a~~ software-based network attached storage (NAS)

20 ~~component~~ <u>components</u> configured to assess unused or under-utilized storage

resources in selected distributed devices of the <u>plurality</u> ~~multiplicity~~ of distributed

devices;

representing with the software-based NAS component that the selected

distributed devices ~~each~~ <u>respectively</u> comprise [[a]] NAS ~~device~~ <u>devices</u> having an

25 available amount of storage resources related to the unused and under-utilized

storage resources for the selected distributed devices; and

processing one or more of data storage or access workloads for the

distributed processing system by accessing data from or storing data [[into]] <u>to</u> at

least a portion of the available amount of storage resources to provide NAS service to a client device coupled to the network.

30. (currently amended)   The method of claim 29, ~~wherein the client agent for the~~ ~~particular said distributed device enables at least one of the selected distributed~~ ~~devices to function as a stand-alone dedicated NAS device~~ <u>further comprising</u> <u>enabling at least one of the selected distributed devices to function as a stand-alone</u> <u>dedicated NAS device through use of the client agent for the particular said</u> <u>distributed device</u>.

31. (currently amended)   The method of claim 29, ~~wherein the client agent for the~~ ~~particular said distributed device enables at least one of the selected distributed~~ ~~devices to function as a location distributed device to store location information for~~ ~~data stored by the selected distributed devices~~ <u>further comprising enabling at least</u> <u>one of the selected distributed devices to function as a location distributed device to</u> <u>store location information associated with data stored by the selected distributed</u> <u>devices through use of the client agent for the particular said distributed device</u>.

32. (currently amended)   The method of claim 31, ~~wherein the location~~ ~~distributed device is further configured to receive an access request from the client~~ ~~device and direct the client device to data requested on at least one of the selected~~ ~~distributed devices~~ <u>further comprising receiving an access request from the client</u> <u>device and directing the client device to data requested on at least one of the</u> <u>selected distributed devices</u>.

33. (currently amended)   The method of claim 32, further comprising managing the NAS service for said distributed devices at least in part utilizing a centralized server.

5   34. (currently amended)   The method of claim 33, ~~wherein the centralized server is further configured to enable download of the NAS component to the selected distributed devices~~ further comprising downloading the software-based NAS component to the selected distributed devices.

10   35. (currently amended)   The method of claim 33, further comprising storing, with the centralized server, location information [[for]] associated with the data stored in the selected distributed devices.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising utilizing
15   the centralized server to receive and route the data for storage to the selected distributed devices based upon individual capabilities of the selected distributed devices indicated in a capabilities database.

37. (currently amended)   The method of claim 29, wherein the ~~network~~
20   ~~comprises~~ method is at least partially performed through use of the Internet.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising managing storage resources for the selected distributed devices with a storage priority control that facilitates use of the available amount of storage resources for the
25   selected distributed devices.

39. (currently amended)   The method of claim 38, ~~wherein the storage priority control comprises a parameter selectable by the client device~~ further comprising accepting selection of the storage priority control, by the client device, that

5   comprises a parameter.

40. (currently amended)   The method of claim 39, ~~wherein the storage priority control comprises storage priority level schemes that prioritize one or more of storage or deletion of data~~ 38, further comprising prioritizing one or more of

10   storage or deletion of data using the storage priority control that comprises storage priority level schemes.

41. (currently amended)   The method of claim 39, ~~wherein the storage priority control comprises a priority marking directly given to data or files~~ wherein the

15   managing storage resources further comprises marking directly data or files.

42. (currently amended) A system comprising:

        a plurality ~~multiplicity~~ of distributed devices configured to be coupled [[by]] to a network, wherein ~~each said~~ the distributed ~~device~~ devices include respective

20   ~~includes a~~ client ~~agent~~ agents configured to process respective portions of workloads for the distributed processing system, ~~each~~ the client ~~agent~~ agents including respective instances of:

        a software-based network attached storage (NAS) component configured to:

                assess unused storage resources of said distributed devices;

allocate [[an]] <u>respective</u> available amount of unused storage resources in selected distributed devices of the <u>plurality</u> ~~multiplicity~~ of distributed <u>devices</u>;

represent that the selected distributed devices ~~each~~ comprise [[a]] <u>respective</u> NAS ~~device~~ <u>devices</u> having the <u>respective</u> available ~~amount~~ <u>amounts</u> of storage resources; and

process <u>workloads associated with</u> data storage and access ~~workloads~~ by accessing data from and storing data into portions of ~~each of~~ the ~~available amounts of unused~~ storage resources in the selected distributed devices to provide NAS service to a client device.

43. (currently amended)   The system of claim 42, wherein ~~each~~ <u>at least one of the</u> client agent is configured to enable at least one of the selected distributed devices to function as a stand-alone dedicated NAS device.

44. (previously presented) The system of claim 42, wherein the client agent is configured to enable at least one of the selected distributed devices to function as a location distributed device to store location information for data stored by the selected distributed devices.

45. (previously presented) The system of claim 44, wherein the location distributed device is configured to receive an access request from the client device and direct the client device to the data stored on the selected distributed devices that was requested.

46. (previously presented) The system of claim 45, wherein the system is further configured to manage the NAS service for said distributed devices at least in part utilizing a centralized server system.

5   47. (previously presented) The system of claim 46, wherein the centralized server system is further configured to enable download of the NAS component to the selected distributed devices.

48. (currently amended) The system of claim 46, wherein the centralized server

10   system is configured to store location information [[for]] associated with the data stored in the selected distributed devices.

49. (previously presented) The system of claim 48, wherein the centralized server system is configured to receive data storage and access requests from the client

15   device and route a data storage workload to the selected distributed devices based upon individual capabilities of the selected distributed devices indicated in a capabilities database.

50. (currently amended) The system of claim 42, wherein the distributed

20   devices are configured to be coupled to network comprises the Internet.

51. (previously presented) The system of claim 42, further comprising a storage priority control configured to facilitate use of the available amount of storage resources for the selected distributed devices.

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52. (previously presented) The system of claim 51, wherein the storage priority control comprises a parameter selectable by the client device.

53. (previously presented) The system of claim 52, wherein the storage priority
5   control comprises storage priority level schemes that prioritize one or more of storage or deletion of data.

54. (previously presented) The system of claim 52, wherein the storage priority control comprises a priority marking directly given to data or files.
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55. (currently amended)   A computer-implemented method comprising:
        allocating data for storage among selected devices of a ~~multiplicity~~ plurality of devices that are ~~each~~ independent and available on a network, wherein ~~each of~~ the ~~multiplicity of~~ devices have respective [[a]] software ~~agent~~ agents that [[is]]
15 are usable to control respective local storage resources that are unused or underused ~~for~~ on the devices ~~that device~~; and
        representing, using at least one of said software agents, that the selected devices ~~individually~~ comprise a network attached storage (NAS) device with storage capacity equal to a total of the unused or underused storage resource.
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56. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 55, wherein the allocating is performed by a server.

57. (currently amended)   The computer-implemented method of claim 55, wherein the allocating and representing are performed by one of the ~~multiplicity~~ plurality of devices.

5   58. (currently amended)   The computer-implemented method of claim 55, wherein the allocating is performed in accordance with respective capability vectors calculated for ~~each of~~ the selected devices.

59. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 55,
10   further comprising:

identifying whether the storage resources for a particular device, of the selected devices, are idle, and

performing the allocating so a greater portion of the data for storage is sent to the particular device if the storage resources for the particular device are idle,
15   wherein the greater portion is greater than a portion of the data that would be allocated to the particular device if the storage resources for the particular device were not idle.

60. (currently amended)   The computer-implemented method of claim 55,
20   wherein the allocating and representing are performed by at least one of the ~~multiplicity~~ plurality of devices via interaction with other devices on a peer-to-peer basis.

61. (currently amended)   A computer-implemented method comprising:

downloading to ~~at least~~ one ~~or more~~ selected ~~devices~~ device, included in a ~~multiplicity~~ plurality of devices, a network attached storage (NAS) component and a portion of a storage workload for storage in memory that is unused or under-utilized; and

representing to a client device, coupled to the multiplicity of devices by a network, that ~~each~~ at least one selected device is a dedicated NAS device.

62. (currently amended)   The computer-implemented method of claim 61, further comprising storing location information in a database that is usable to indicate locations in memory where the portion of the storage workload is stored.

63. (currently amended)   The computer-implemented method of claim 61, wherein the computer-implemented method is performed by at least one [[a]] central server coupled to the network.

64. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 61, wherein the computer-implemented method is performed by a particular device of the multiplicity of devices.

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65. (currently amended)   The computer-implemented method of claim 61, wherein the ~~network comprises the Internet~~ computer-implemented method is at least partially performed through use of the Internet.